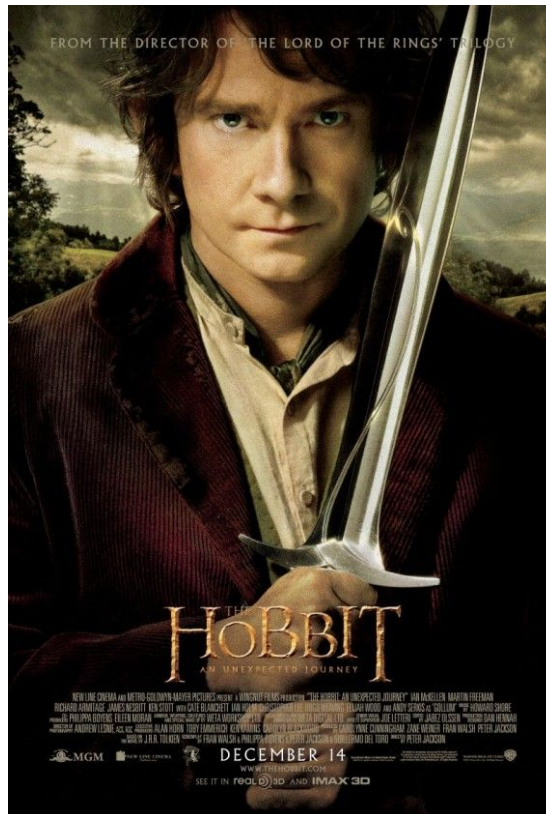


THE HOBBIT

By Lorraine Viade, Psy.D.



The Hobbit is the precursor to the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. Back when I was a young reader, this was the *Harry Potter* of its time. In terms of magical places, wizardry and imagination, you could not beat J.R.R. Tolkien. Just the idea of hobbits was enchanting and the worlds he created could not be realized until the technology caught up to the task.

In *The Hobbit*, some of the back story about the life and journey of Bilbo Baggins is revealed including the first glimpse of our precious Gollum. For those who do not follow the series, know that you are missing out! Go and check out the *Lord of the Ring* series. Even if you never opened the book, these interwoven adventures will satisfy in a more sophisticated way than the *Harry Potter* series. Of course, I love them both.

So out of the hobbit hole comes a reluctant Bilbo who has to, like many of us, come out of our personal and safe comfort zones to journey to new lands. The people we meet, the things we see and the dangers we face both internally and externally make *The Hobbit* such a wonderful illustration of the vast array of adventures that await us. Some of us go kicking and screaming into the fray, afraid until we find our purpose. Such is life. And as a metaphor for living, this tale remains one of the most satisfying. Our world is not so interesting. And yet,

we face monsters and dragons – and our own obsessions, dark sides and fear – every single day. Our battles are fierce and, in the end, we go back to our little worlds where hopefully there is comfort, joy and love.

There will be two more installments of *The Hobbit*. I am so glad they took the time to honor the words and the worlds that were created for our eternal enjoyment. *The Hobbit* is not just for fans and as a first introduction to this magical world of middle Earth; it is definitely worth your time. If you have teenagers, encourage them to read the books. I was 12 when I read them. I have my sister to thank for giving them to me to read. These characters have been and always will be part of my library of favorites.

I hope you enjoy *The Hobbit* as much as I did. I give *The Hobbit* five couches.

